

November 2018 Membership Meeting Minutes

Secretary Maureen Coffey noted that we reached a quorum, and Vice President Nicole Merlene called the meeting to order and gave a brief introduction, thanking Virginia Hospital Center and calling the meeting to order. Ms. Merlene also thanked the career center and its students for filming the meeting. The agenda and the consent agenda were both approved unanimously, with no amendments.

Vice-President's Report: Nicole Merlene reported that with the Amazon announcement of the day, the Federation would be shaping the December meeting to address Amazon. She also guided delegates and alternates that were present to be sure to sign in, and encouraged all to participate in the many wonderful committees the Federation has.

Special election: Due to two resignations for personal reasons, the Board of Directors required a special election. The candidates were Mike McMenamain of Maywood, Allen Norton of Bluemont, Sandy Newton of the Women's Club of Arlington, and Takis Karantonis of Columbia Heights. Voting was done by secret ballot. Mike McMenamain and Sandy Newton won, with the two highest vote tallies. Vice-President Nicole Merlene thanked all of the candidates, and encouraged them all to stay involved and consider running for the 2019-2020 Board.

Legislative Panel: Moderated by the Vice-Chair of the Legislative Committee Juliet Hiznay, five of Arlington's seven state legislators participated in a panel on their priorities for the upcoming session. In attendance was Senator Barbara Favola, Delegate Rip Sullivan, Delegate Alfonso Lopez, Senator Adam Ebbin, and Delegate Mark Levine. Questions were asked regarding renewable energy and green tech development; medicaid expansion funding; automatic voter registration; data sharing across localities; energy efficiency; preserving mature trees and the tree canopy; conversion therapy and its legality; redistricting/gerrymandering; and natural gas pipelines in Virginia.

Old Business: Juliet Hiznay, Vice-Chair of the Legislative Committee, presented the Civil Forfeiture resolution once again, this time providing a background report and answering questions from delegates and alternates. After debate, the resolution passed (40-3-5).

New Business: Three resolutions were introduced:

Bluemont Civic Association presented a resolution on saving trees in Upton Park

The Legislative Committee introduced a resolution on decriminalizing marijuana

Delegate Jesse Boeding presented a resolution questioning the methodologies being used in the Public Spaces Master Plan and its affects on transparency.

Nicole Merlene announced our upcoming events, including the subsequent Board of Directors meeting and the December membership meeting, of which the date changed to December 11th.

Open Mic: Delegates received time to comment on issues of concern to them. Brought up at the November meeting were: Amazon employee safety and welfare; the legislative committee's work; Amazon's effect on affordable housing and property taxes; general concerns/worries about the Amazon decision; the need to incorporate a variety of viewpoints into the Civic Federation; questions about Amazon's APS investment; and questions on the re-development of the Harris Teeter on Glebe Road.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:30.